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This high interest, low vocabulary text is one of a series of readers in consumer education useful in English as a Second Language (ESL) classes. Each page of text is illustrated with black-and-white photographs. (AMH)

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Try It On

Buying Clothing

by
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This is a work of fiction. Any relationship between the people, places, products, and events in this book and real people, places, products, and events is coincidental.

CHAPTER 1

Maria and Carmen are sisters. They live together in a big city. Their family lives in a small town. Maria and Carmen moved to the city to get better jobs. They like the city. There are lots of things to do in the city.

Maria works in an office. Carmen goes to school. She is learning how to type. She wants to be a good office worker.

Maria and Carmen live in an apartment. Both of them have to take care of it.

After dinner Carmen starts to make a new skirt. She likes to sew. She often makes her own clothes. She saves a lot of money this way.

Carmen takes out her sewing machine. She takes out the material. She cut it yesterday. Now she is ready to sew the skirt together.

"This skirt is going to be pretty," she thinks. "I'm glad that I know how to sew."

Carmen works hard to make her clothes. She wants to look nice.

After dinner, Maria reads the newspaper. She reads the news. She reads about what is happening in the world. She reads about the movies in the city.

Then Maria looks at the ads for clothes. She likes to shop. She likes to look in all the stores. There are many stores in her city. She often goes shopping. Sometimes Carmen goes with Maria. Carmen does not like to shop for clothes. She does not like to go into stores. She does not like to try on clothes in the store.

Maria sees many ads for women's clothes. She would like to buy many shirts, skirts, and dresses. She wishes that she had more money. She would like to buy everything in the ads. She wants a lot of new clothes for the spring.

After a little while, she calls to Carmen. She wants Carmen to see the ads. Maria shows the ads to Carmen.

"Look at this dress," Maria says. "Isn't it pretty?"

"Yes," says Carmen. "It looks great. But it costs a lot of money."

"Do you think so?" Maria asks. "I don't think that it is so expensive."

"I could make a dress like that," Carmen says. "It would cost a lot less money."

"But it takes you a lot of time to make a dress," Maria says.

"Yes," says Carmen. "But I like to sew. It is fun to make your own clothes. They always fit right."

"You do make nice things," Maria says. "But I don't know how to sew very well. And I like to go shopping."

Just then the phone rings. It is Maria's boyfriend. His name is Felix. He tells Maria about his party. It is going to be on next Saturday night. Felix wants Maria and Carmen to come to the party.

Maria tells Carmen about the party. Carmen says that she would like to go. Maria tells Felix that they will come to his party.

Maria and Carmen talk about the party. Maria wants to look very nice. She wants to wear a special dress.

Carmen is glad that Felix asked her to come to the party too. She likes to go to parties.

"What should we wear?" Maria asks.

"I don't know," Carmen says. "Let's look in the closet." They look at all of their clothes.

"I don't like anything," Maria says. "I don't have a really special dress. I want a new dress."

Carmen takes out one of her dresses.

"I have something to wear," she says. "I can wear this dress."

"That dress is nice," Maria says. "But it is too big. You got thin. It doesn't look right anymore."

"I can fix it," Carmen says.

"I think that you should buy a new dress for this party," Maria says.

"Maybe you're right," Carmen says. "I won't have time to fix this dress by Saturday night. I am very busy this week. I have a lot of schoolwork to do."

"Let's go shopping on Saturday," Maria says. "I'll help you pick out a new dress."

"Good," says Carmen.

CHAPTER 2

On Saturday morning, Maria wakes up early. She is very happy today. She wants to see Felix. She wakes up Carmen.

Maria wants to go shopping with Carmen. She wants to start early in the morning. Maria wants to buy a new dress. She wants to wear it to the party tonight.

Maria decides to go to a department store today. Department stores sell many things. They also sell many kinds of dresses. Maria and Carmen go to Roll's Department Store.

Carmen and Maria walk around Roll's Department Store. Carmen sees some dishes. She likes to look at things for the house.

"Look at these dishes," Carmen says to Maria. "We could use some new dishes."

Maria looks at the dishes. She likes them too.

"We don't need new dishes," Maria says. "Our old dishes are fine. Today we just need new dresses. Let's go upstairs."

"OK," Carmen says. "But first I want to look at the glasses."

Carmen and Maria look at the glasses. There are many different kinds.

Carmen picks up one glass. "These are nice," Carmen says.

"Yes," Maria says. "But they are expensive. These glasses break too easily. Anyway, we don't need them. Let's go look at the dresses."

"OK, OK," says Carmen. "But first I want to look at the materials."

Maria and Carmen go upstairs to the "Fabrics" department. They look at the materials. Carmen wants to make a new skirt for the summer. She wants to use good material. She doesn't want the material to rip. It is easier to sew with good material.

First Carmen looks at some blue material. It is a nice color. But Carmen doesn't need blue material. She has a blue skirt for the summer. Then Carmen looks at some other material. It has many colors in it. Carmen has many shirts at home. Some of them would look nice with a skirt made of this material.

Carmen touches the material. She wants the skirt to feel good. This material feels good.

She shows Maria how to buy good material. Maria doesn't know about material. First Carmen feels the material. She asks herself if it feels good. Then she pulls the material. She wants to feel how strong it is. Then she puts some of the material in her hand. She closes her hand. She wants to see if she will have to iron it. If it wrinkles, it will take lots of ironing. She does all these things to this material. Then she knows if it is good.

Carmen wants to buy some of this material.

"You can't buy this material and a dress too," Maria says. "You need the dress for tonight."

"OK," Carmen says. "I guess that I have to buy a dress today. I can come back for this material. I hope that it will still be here. I would like to make a skirt with this material."

"It will be here in a few weeks," says Maria.

"I hope so," says Carmen. "We can look for the dresses now."

Now Maria and Carmen go to look to the dresses. They walk to the elevator. They have to go to the fourth floor. They wait for the elevator.

"I hope that there are lots of nice dresses upstairs," Maria says.

"Me too," says Carmen. "I don't want to shop all day. We have to clean up the apartment this afternoon."

"OK," says Maria. "But we have to find some dresses first. Remember, we want to wear them tonight. After we buy the dresses, we can think about the apartment."

Carmen and Maria get out of the elevator on the fourth floor. They look at the dresses on one part of the floor. There the dresses are too expensive.

Then they go to another part of the floor. They look at the dresses. Each of them knows their size. Maria looks at the size 7 dresses. Carmen looks at the size 11 dresses.

Carmen looks at a pretty green dress. She shows it to Maria. Maria tells Carmen that she can't wear that dress to the party tonight. It is too cold outside for that dress.

Then Carmen and Maria look at some spring dresses. They look at the price tags on them. These dresses are not too expensive.

Maria sees a pretty dress. She likes it. It is a pretty color. Maria thinks that the dress will look good on her.

Maria looks at the labels inside the dress. One label tells the consumer about how to take care of the dress. This label says "Wash in warm water." Sometimes this label tells the consumers that they have to dry clean the dress. It is expensive to dry clean clothes.

Maria looks at the other label. It tells what company made the dress. It also tells the consumer about the material.

Maria reads the labels. She can wash this dress. She will not have to dry clean it. Maria always buys dresses that she can wash.

Maria shows the dress to Carmen. Carmen reads about the material. Then she touches the material.

"It's good material," Carmen says. "I like this dress."

Maria sees some other dresses. She likes them too. She wants to try on all of these dresses. She takes them into the dressing room.

Carmen looks at some dresses. She likes one of them. One label says size 11. It is her size. Carmen thinks that it will fit well. She doesn't want to try it on.

Carmen looks in Maria's dressing room. Maria is wearing one of the dresses.

"That dress is pretty," Carmen says. "It looks good on you."

"I like it too," Maria says. "But I'm going to try on the other dresses too. Did you find a dress?"

"I found one," Carmen says.

Carmen shows the dress to Maria. Maria likes it too. Carmen tells Maria that she is going to buy this dress.

"Did you try on this dress?" Maria asks.

"No!" Carmen says. "I don't want to try it on."

Maria cannot tell Carmen what to do. Carmen would not listen to Maria. Carmen does not like to shop. She can try on the dress at home.

Maria tries on the rest of the dresses. One dress doesn't fit right. It is too big. Another dress doesn't look good on her. But two dresses look very good on her. Maria likes both of them. She can't decide which dress to buy.

Maria asks Carmen about the two dresses. Carmen tells Maria which one she likes better. Finally, Maria decides to buy one dress. She doesn't have enough money to buy two dresses.

Carmen and Maria look at the price tags on the dresses again. They count their money. They want to make sure that they have enough money to buy these dresses. They are glad that they have enough money with them.

They go to the clerk. They tell the clerk that they want to buy these dresses. The clerk writes the bill. They pay for the dresses. Then the clerk puts each dress in a bag.

"Enjoy your new dresses," the clerk says.

Carmen and Maria feel good. They have pretty new dresses to wear tonight.

"I'm hungry," says Carmen. "Let's go eat."

"OK," says Maria. "Let's go to the taco place."

Carmen and Maria eat a good lunch. Then Carmen wants to go home. She does not want to go to another dress store. Maria wants to go to a jean store.

"I'll go with you," Carmen says. "But you have to hurry. I want to go home."

"I'll hurry," Maria says.

Carmen and Maria go to the jean store. Maria wants to look at the shirts. She wants to buy a pink T-shirt.

Maria looks at the T-shirts. She sees a nice pink T-shirt. She wants to buy it. She looks at the price tag. It costs a lot of money.

"That's too much money for a T-shirt," Carmen says.

"I think so too," Maria says. "I'll have to look at some other T-shirts next week. I'll go to some other stores."

"Let's go home," Carmen says.

Carmen and Maria start to go home. They walk past a dry cleaning store.

Maria is glad that she won't have to pay to dry clean her new dress. She is glad that she will be able to wash her new dress. It costs a lot of money to dry clean clothes.

"Is Ed coming to the party?" Carmen asks Maria.

"I don't know," Maria says. "Felix didn't tell me."

Maria smiles. She knows that Carmen wants to see Ed.

"I hope that Ed is at the party," Carmen says. "I haven't seen him for a while."

"Maybe he'll be at the party," Maria says.

Finally Carmen and Maria get home. They hang up their new dresses. Then Maria and Carmen clean their apartment.

Carmen sits down. She wants to rest for a while. Maria looks in the closet. She wants to find the right shoes to wear with her new dress. Then Maria sits down to look at a magazine.

Maria talks to Carmen about the party.

"Why don't you try on your new dress now?" Maria asks. "I want to see how it looks on you."

"It will fit," says Carmen. "It's the right size."

"You should have tried it on in the store," Maria says. "Sometimes the store puts the wrong size on the label."

"Really?" Carmen says. "It looks like the right size. I'll try it on later. I'm too tired now."

"Please try it on now," Maria says. "We have to get ready soon."

Carmen puts on her new dress. She is surprised. It doesn't fit right. The top of the dress is too tight. It doesn't look good on Carmen.

Maria looks at the dress on Carmen. Carmen tries to pull the dress so that it will fit.

"You can't fix this dress now," Maria says. "You should have tried it on in the store. You'll have to wear something else tonight."

Carmen feels bad. She knows that she will have to return the dress to the store. She goes into the bedroom. She looks in the closet for another dress. She finds one. It is old. She doesn't like it very much. But this dress fits. Carmen will have to wear it tonight.

Carmen and Maria start to get ready for the party.

"Does my hair look OK?" Carmen asks.

"Yes," Maria tells her sister. "It looks good."

Carmen and Maria comb their hair. Maria puts on her new dress. She feels good. Carmen puts on her old dress. She wishes that she had a new dress to wear. She is sorry that she didn't try on the dress in the store. There were many pretty dresses in the store. She could have found a nice new dress for the party.

Finally Carmen and Maria are ready. They go to the party.

CHAPTER 3

On Sunday, Maria and Carmen eat lunch. They talk about the party. They had a good time.

"I'm glad that Ed was at the party," Carmen says. "I like him."

"I think that he is O.K. too," Maria says. "He spent a lot of time with you. He's a good dancer."

"Yes, he is," Carmen says. "I hope that I see him soon."

"I hope so too," Maria says.

Carmen and Maria clean the table. They put the food away. They wash the dishes.

"Do we have enough food for the week?" Maria asks.

"No," Carmen says. "I'll shop for food tomorrow. It's my turn."

"Good," Maria says. "Get some rice. We're out of it. I want to have some for dinner tomorrow."

"OK," says Carmen.

Maria sits down in the living room. She has some coffee. She looks at a magazine. This magazine has many pictures of women's clothes in it. It tells about women's clothes.

Maria reads the magazine. She looks at all the pictures. She thinks about clothes for the summer.

"I think that I would look good in this dress," she thinks. "I wonder how long my dresses should be. This year the dresses look different."

Maria goes to look at her clothes.

Maria likes to go shopping for clothes. Sometimes at lunchtime she leaves work and goes shopping. Last week, she saw a skirt and scarf for the summer. She tried it on. It looked great. She was in a hurry. She didn't think about it. She just bought it.

Today Maria finds the skirt and scarf in the closet. She shows the skirt and scarf to Carmen.

"When did you buy that?" Carmen asks.

"Last week," Maria tells her. "Isn't it cute?"

"Yes," Carmen says. "But what do you need it for? You can't wear that to work."

"Why not?" Maria says.

"Well, maybe you can wear it this year," Carmen says. "But next year it will look silly."

"But this kind of skirt is in all the magazines," Maria says.

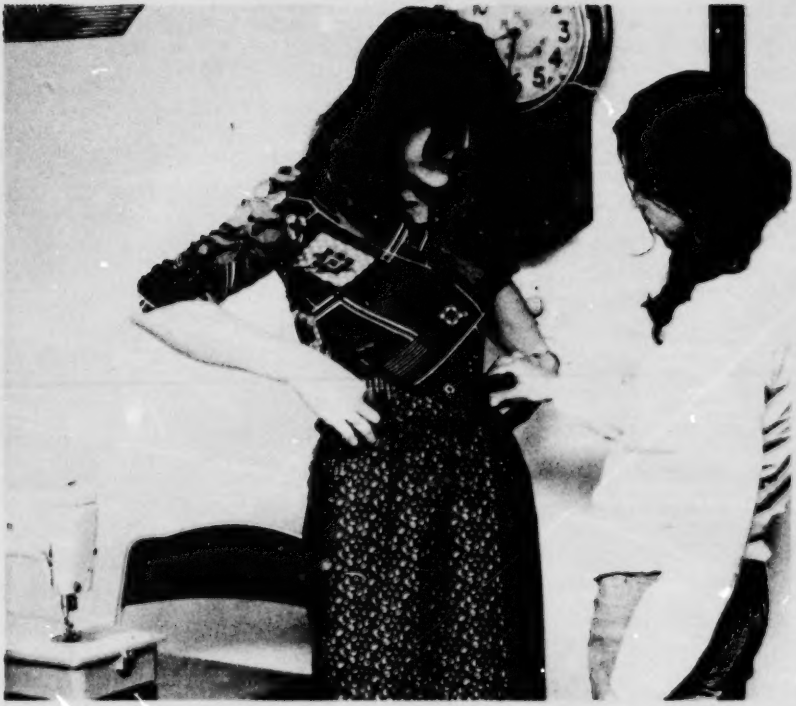
"I know," Carmen says. "You showed them to me. Those magazines want you to buy a lot of new clothes every year. We can't buy things that we don't need. We can only buy a few things each year. We have to wear them for a few years."

"I know all that," Maria says. "But I forgot when I was in the store. I can't take it back now. It's too late. There was a sign in the store. It said that you have only three days to bring things back."

"Well, that's too bad," Carmen says.

"I should think more when I shop," Maria says. "Sometimes I buy things that I don't need."

"Yes, you do," Carmen says. "And then you don't have enough money. You really need some things. You didn't need that skirt."



Carmen sits down at her sewing machine. She is making a new skirt. She asks Maria to look at it. Carmen wants to know how the skirt looks. She wants to know how long to make the skirt. Maria tells Carmen about the pictures in the magazine. Maria tells Carmen how long to make the skirt.

Then Maria asks Carmen to show her how to sew on the sewing machine.

"You can learn to sew on a sewing machine," Carmen tells her. "It's not hard. Then you can save a lot of money on clothes too."

Carmen teaches Maria how to use the sewing machine.

First Carmen shows Maria how to put the thread in the machine. Carmen puts the material in the right place. Then Carmen shows Maria how to sew a seam.

Maria tries. It is not too hard. She does good work. Maria is happy. She thinks about sewing. She thinks that she might like to make some new clothes. Maria knows that Carmen will teach her how to sew. Then she will be able to make some clothes too.

A little later Carmen and Maria wash their clothes. When the clothes are dry, Carmen and Maria have to put them all back in the right places.

Carmen looks at her shirts. Two of them have red spots on them. Her red shirt looks OK. She looks at the label on the red shirt. It says, "Hand wash separately." Carmen is upset. She didn't read this label. Now her other shirts have red or pink all over them. It might not come out.

Then Carmen looks at her socks. She wants to make sure that they are all good. She needs them to wear with her pants. Some of them have holes in them. She has to throw them away. She looks at the rest of her socks. She needs some more blue socks. She will have to buy some. She will wait for a sale to buy them.

On Saturday morning, Maria and Carmen have breakfast. They sit and talk for a little while. They drink some coffee. Carmen doesn't want to go shopping today. Maria knows that Carmen has to return her dress to Roll's Department Store. It did not fit right.

Carmen can get her money back from the department store. But she has to return the dress today. She has had the dress for one week. The store won't give back her money if she waits too long. Carmen must go to Roll's Department Store today.

Maria says that she will not take the dress back for Carmen. Carmen will have to take the dress back herself.

"I'll go with you," Maria says. "But you have to do it yourself. You should have tried on the dress in the store."

"I don't like to return things," Carmen says. "What should I say?"

"Tell the clerk that the dress didn't fit you," Maria tells her. "She will give you back your money if you return the dress today. You have only ten days to return something. After that time, the department store won't give back your money."

"OK," says Carmen. "When else can you bring back clothes to the store and get back your money?"

"At home you may find some spots or holes in the clothes before you wear them," Maria says. "Maybe you didn't see them at the store. Then you can take the clothes back to the store. You always have to bring the bill with you."

Carmen and Maria get ready to go out. Then they go to Roll's Department Store.

Carmen sees the clerk. She tells the clerk that the dress doesn't fit her. She tells the clerk that she wants to return it.

The clerk looks at the dress. She wants to make sure that Carmen didn't wear it. The dress still has all the tags on it. It looks new. Someone else may buy this dress.

Then the clerk looks at the bill. The bill says that Carmen bought this dress one week ago.

"We can take this dress back," the clerk says.

"Great!" says Carmen.

"Would you like to try on a different size?" the clerk asks her.

"No, thanks," Carmen says. "I don't need a dress. Can I have my money back?"

"OK," the clerk says.

The clerk takes the dress. She gives Carmen her money.

Carmen is happy. She is glad that the clerk didn't fight with her. She is glad that she has her money back. Now she can buy some new material.

Carmen and Maria go downstairs to the material department. Carmen remembers that Roll's had some nice material last week. She wanted to buy some of it. It had so many pretty colors in it.

Carmen looks for that material. She can't find it. She asks the clerk about it. The clerk says that she sold all of that material.

Carmen is upset. She wanted to make a skirt with that material.

Carmen and Maria leave Roll's Department Store.

Carmen wants to go home. She doesn't want to go to more dress shops.

"I have to buy a new shirt," Maria says.

"Why?" Carmen asks.

"I need a shirt to go with my plaid skirt," Maria says. "Please come with me. I want you to help me pick out the right color."

"OK," says Carmen. "Where do you want to go?"
"I want to look in that new store," Maria says. "It's called Fancy Me. They have pretty things in the window."

"OK," Carmen says.

Carmen and Maria go into the Fancy Me store. First Maria sees a cute little pocketbook. She would like to buy it. She can wear it when she goes out.

Then Maria thinks about the pocketbook. She saw this kind of pocketbook in a magazine. The magazine said that this kind of pocketbook was a great thing for this year. Maria wonders if it will be a great thing next year.

Maria decides that she will look funny with this pocketbook next year. She decides that she shouldn't buy it.

Then Maria and Carmen look at the shirts. Maria wants to buy a purple shirt. She needs the right color for her plaid skirt. She has been looking for a purple shirt for a long time. She needs a special shade.

Maria sees some purple shirts. She looks at all of them. Finally she finds one. She likes it.

"This shirt is very pretty," Maria says.

"I like it too," Carmen says. "Look at the way it is made. It is made very well. These seams are strong. And these buttons won't fall off easily."

"It's made of soft material," Maria says. "It feels good."

"It does," says Carmen. "It sure is a nice shirt."

Maria looks at the labels. One label says that this shirt must be dry cleaned. It will be expensive to clean this shirt.

Then Maria looks at the price tag. "Wow!" Maria says. "This shirt is expensive. But I like it. It will go with my pants and skirt."

"You can't buy that shirt," Carmen says. "It costs too much money."

"But I need a purple shirt," Maria says. "It will last for a long time."

"Let's look in another store," Carmen says. "You may be able to find another purple shirt for less money."

"OK," Maria says. "We can come back later."

Carmen and Maria leave the store. Carmen is hungry. She is tired. She wants to sit down and eat.

"Let's eat lunch," Carmen says.

"OK," says Maria. "Let's go to the restaurant around the corner."

Maria and Carmen sit at a table in the restaurant. They eat lunch. It doesn't cost too much money.

"I know a good discount store," Maria says. "The clothes there cost less money than in some other stores. Let's go there after lunch."

"OK," Carmen says. "Maybe you can find a purple shirt there."

"I hope so," Maria says. "This discount store often has nice things. Sometimes they have the same clothes as other stores. But the clothes at a discount store cost less money."

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Maria and Carmen finish their iunch. Soon they are ready to go to the discount store. They walk to the discount store.

Maria sees a sign in the discount store. It says, "Sale." The discount store is selling the winter clothes on sale. The discount store has had these clothes for a long time. Many people have looked at them. No one bought them. Now these clothes are on sale.

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"Let's look over here," says Maria. "These clothes are on sale. They will cost even less money than the other clothes in this store."

"OK," says Carmen. "But we have to be careful. These shirts have been here for a long time. Sometimes the shirts on sale have something wrong with them. They can have holes in them. They might have spots on them."

"I'll be careful," Maria says. "I don't want to buy a shirt with a spot on it."

Maria and Carmen look at the clothes on sale. Some of them are torn. Some of them are nice. Carmen and Maria look carefully at the clothes.

Maria looks for a purple shirt. There are no purple shirts on sale. She is sad. She wanted to buy a purple shirt on sale. Then Maria looks at the other shirts. They don't cost a lot of money.

Maria thinks for a minute. She doesn't need these shirts. She needs a purple shirt.

"I don't see anything here," Maria says to Carmen. "Let's look around the store."

Maria and Carmen look at the pants. Then they look at the sweaters.

The clerk comes over to them. She wants to help Maria and Carmen. She wants them to buy something.

"We're just looking," Maria says to the clerk.

"OK," says the clerk. "Do you like this sweater? It's a nice color."

"Yes, but I don't need a sweater," Maria says. "All right," says the clerk. "Let me know if you need help."

"OK," says Maria.

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Maria and Carmen look at the shirts that are not on sale. In the discount store these shirts cost less money than in other stores.

Maria finds a purple shirt. She looks at the label. She remembers that last year she bought a shirt with the same label. Maria washed it many times and it still looks good. It is a good brand.

Then Carmen looks at the seams. Carmen thinks that they look tight so they won't rip easily.

Maria looks at the price tag. This shirt is not too expensive.

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Maria tries on the shirt. It fits. Maria likes it. She thinks that it is the right color. She thinks that it will go with her skirt. She wants to buy it.

Carmen looks at the shirt. She thinks that it is the right color too.

Maria wants to buy this shirt. She gives the shirt to the clerk. Then the clerk writes the bill. Then she takes Maria's money. The clerk puts the shirt in a bag.

Maria and Carmen leave the store. Maria feels good. Now she has a new shirt. She thinks that this shirt will go with her skirt.

Maria and Carmen go home. Carmen is glad that Maria got a purple shirt in the discount store. Carmen didn't want to go to another store.

Carmen thinks about what she will wear tonight. She is going out with Ed. She wants to look pretty. She finished making a new skirt yesterday. She worked hard to make it. Carmen thinks that she will wear her new skirt tonight. Carmen has a shirt to wear with this skirt. She thinks that they will go together.

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Maria is glad that she has a new purple shirt. She opens the bag. She takes out her new shirt. She takes it into the bedroom. Carmen comes into the bedroom too. Carmen wants to see if the purple shirt is the right shade.

Maria opens the closet. She takes out her plaid skirt. Maria holds up her new purple shirt. She holds it next to the plaid skirt. She is surprised. The shirt is not the right shade of purple. It doesn't look good with the plaid skirt.

Carmen looks at the purple shirt and the plaid skirt. Carmen also thinks that the purple shirt is too light.

Maria and Carmen look at the rest of Maria's clothes. They want to see if Maria needs this purple shirt.

Maria has something to wear with all of her pants. She has something to wear with most of her skirts. She only needs a shirt to go with her plaid skirts. She doesn't need this purple shirt.

Maria thinks that she will have to take this purple shirt back to the store. She will have to find another purple shirt. She wants a shirt that will go with her plaid skirt.

Maria puts the purple shirt back in the bag. She puts the bill in the bag too. She will have to return this shirt.

Maria starts to get dressed. She is going out tonight.

Carmen is already dressed. She is going out too.

CHAPTER 4

The next Saturday, Maria has to return the purple shirt to the store.

First Maria and Carmen clean up their apartment. Some people are coming over tonight.

"I wish that I didn't have to return this shirt today," Maria says.

"Can't you do it on Monday?" Carmen asks.

"No," says Maria. "I have to go today. That discount store won't take the shirt back after today."

"Why?" Carmen asks.

"Because this store works that way," Maria says. "There is a sign in the store. The sign says that you have to return things within seven days."

"Will they give your money back to you?" Carmen asks.

"No," Maria says. "The sign says that the store won't give your money back."

"What do they do?" Carmen asks.

"They will let me buy something else," Maria says.

"Do you have to buy it today?" Carmen asks.

"No," says Maria. "If I can't find something else to buy today, the store will give me a paper. The paper says that I can buy something else for the price of that shirt."

"Remember that you only need a purple shirt," Carmen says.

"OK," Maria says. "Do you want to come with me?"

"No," Carmen says. "I want to finish what I'm doing. You can go to the discount store by yourself. Return the shirt. I'll meet you in front of the store in an hour."

"OK," says Maria. "See you later."

Maria goes to the discount store. She brings the purple shirt and the bill. She gives them to the clerk.

"What's wrong with this shirt?" the clerk asks.

"It's the wrong color," Maria tells her.

The clerk looks at the shirt. She wants to see if Maria has worn this shirt. The store will not take the shirt back if Maria has worn it.

The clerk takes the shirt back. She gives Maria a paper. Now Maria can buy something else. Maria is glad. She looks around the store. She doesn't see another purple shirt.

Maria leaves the store. She puts the paper in her pocketbook. She will go back to this discount store another time. The discount store has some of her money. She will have to buy something there.

Maria meets Carmen.

"The discount store didn't have any other purple shirts," Maria says. "I want to look in another store."

"I thought so," Carmen says. "I brought your plaid skirt with me. Now we will be able to get the right color shirt. You can try on the shirt with your skirt."

"Thanks," Maria says. "That's a good idea."

"I always take some material with me to the store," Carmen says. "Then I can buy the right thing."

"Let's go to Jill's," Maria says. "I heard that Jill's is a good store."

"All right," Carmen says.

Carmen and Maria go to Jill's. They look at the shirts. This store has some nice purple shirts.

Maria finds a purple shirt. She holds it next to her plaid skirt. It is the right color. Maria looks at the price tag. This shirt costs more money than the shirt at the discount store. But it doesn't cost too much money. Maria has enough money. She decides to try on this shirt.

Maria tries the shirt on with her skirt. The shirt fits. It goes with her plaid skirt.

Maria decides to buy this purple shirt. She gives some money to the clerk. The clerk writes the receipt Then she puts the shirt into a bag.

Maria and Carmen go home.

On the way home, Maria and Carmen look in the store windows. They look at the clothes. Maria likes to look in the windows. But Carmen wants to go home.

"Come on," Carmen says. "Let's go home. You don't need anymore clothes now."

"I know," says Maria. "But it's fun to look in the windows. It's fun to shop for clothes."